



News Release

Dixie National Forest

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CEDAR CITY, Utah – The Cedar City Ranger District continues to implement the Duck Creek Fuels Project, which is designed to reduce the risk of large-scale high intensity wildfires from occurring within the Duck Creek area.

“Fuels treatments in the Wildland-Urban Interface, like the Duck Creek Fuels Project, are designed to reduce the cost and increase the success of future fire suppression activities,” said Rob MacWhorter, Dixie National Forest Supervisor. “This type of fuels project will provide for greater public and firefighter safety during future wildfire events.”

The Duck Creek Fuels Treatment project will treat approximately 11,773 acres in the greater Duck Creek Village area. To date about 4,500 acres have been thinned and piled and about 2,200 acres of piles have been burned

In the next several weeks, fire fighters plan to burn piles of fuel accumulated during the fuel treatments. Burning will continue until snow depths preclude effective burning. Once piles are burned the area will look better and the full fire resilient benefits for the area will be in affect.

Firefighter and public safety and the protection of private property are the number one priorities on this project. Burnt areas with heat and smoke will be patrolled and monitored to reduce the risk of negative consequences.

Smoke will be present in the area while burning occurs. We ask the public and local residents to be patient with the smoke and to realize the huge benefit this project will have on both the surrounding private property and the forest. Effects from burning will be of short duration and the smoke will generally dissipate quickly, with only residual smoke remaining for a day or two. We anticipate that a percentage of trees will be scorched during the burn process, turning some of the needles brown. These needles will fall in a year or two and cover the area where the piles were burned. Therefore the evidence of burning should be of short duration. In the long term the aesthetics of the area will be greatly improved.

The most important thing you can do to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire burning down your home is to manage the vegetation surrounding it. To get an idea of what you can do on your private property to make it “firewise” go to: <http://www.firewise.org/> or call the Cedar City Ranger District at (435) 865-3700.

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